

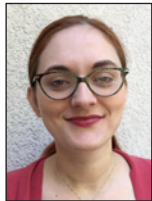


FIRST UU NEWS

We gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.

Happy trails, Laine! Welcome, Jules!

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse/Jules Jaramillo



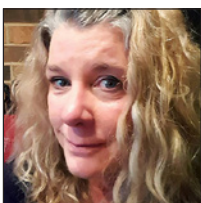
It has been a tremendous pleasure to work with Laine as our Interim Director of Faith Development for the past few years. She came in at a difficult time, guided our program with boundless energy and a steady hand, and has become well loved by our children and their parents. *(Find her farewell article on pg. 4.)*

I am grateful to her for lending us her tremendous sense of organization, her wonderful sense of humor, and a deep understanding of Unitarian Universalism. We wish her and her family a wonderful new chapter as they move to Tokyo. We will miss you all!

And now, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Jules Jaramillo. Jules has some words of welcome for you in advance of her arrival this month. Big thanks to Elias Ponvert and Carol Ramsey who joined me on the search team. ■

Dear First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin,

Oh, my goodness—I will be with you, in person, in less than a month! My excitement feels beyond words to describe, but that has never stopped me from trying.



So, let me begin by saying: I already love you and I am looking forward to discovering all the ways I will grow to love you even more!

I also can't wait to learn more about you, your families; who you are, what you dream for in your lives, and for this faith community. I imagine walking with you in the church, even in the midst

of construction, as I listen to the individual and collective stories that exist in that sacred space. I want you to learn about me. Who I am, the love I hold for Unitarian Universalism, and faith development. I am over-the-moon excited to be arriving at the end of June and look forward to the future we will share together.

Until then, here is a little more about my family and me. My husband Fernando and I just celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. Before retiring, Fernando had careers in aerospace, aviation, and child forensic investigation and law enforcement. We are the parents of two adult children: Niko, 26; and Patrick, 19. Niko is a musician, the craft beer director and head bartender at a large venue in Chicago, and holds his Cicerone certification (the equivalent to a sommelier, but for beer). Patrick is finishing his first year of college. He would like to become a professor and hopes to open a school of thought, as he

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

It's supposed to happen

by Sean Ramsey



Sometime in the late 1980s, I was travelling from Memphis, TN to Kalamazoo, MI for the annual YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) Youth Council and Continental Conference. I was a teenager and it was my first time on an airplane. We were flying to Chicago, O'Hare before taking a puddle jumper over to Kalamazoo. I was in a window seat—a selection made by a young 15-year-old who had more interest in the view than comfort. I gazed out the window, soaking up the view of downtown Chicago and Lake Michigan as we made our descent. As the tires hit the ground, I noticed that the back of the engine had suddenly fallen off! I was in full panic mode, looking around the cabin at the other passengers who surely must have seen this and who had to be as equally in shock. Nothing. No one was worried. I looked back out the window and noticed that the pieces I thought had flown off were now being hydraulically pulled back into place around the engine casing, and we taxied to our gate. No flames. No explosions. Apparently, it was supposed to happen.

I was staring out the sanctuary window the other day and had a similar feeling of uneasiness. The garden was gone. There were holes in the walls and plastic draping in areas to seal us from the effects of the work. I looked around the sanctuary, seeking others with whom to commiserate the disturbing scene. And yet nothing. No one seemed worried. Apparently, this too is supposed to happen.

What an amazing thing this says about us as a community. While each of us must hold some small amount of anxiety or concern, we are keenly focused on the future ahead of us and the possibilities it holds. Together we have pooled our resources and made a bet on the future of this congregation, and it feels so good to finally see the manifestation of this shared commitment.

It also feels good to come together and explore what this future might look like, what vision we have for ourselves in our new building. The work we did as a community to review our mission and rededicate ourselves to new ends is inspiring, to say the least. So much so that Laura Park of Unity

Consulting will be using First UU as a use case for her upcoming Nested Bowls workshop at General Assembly. That we are compelled collectively by this vision to build the Beloved Community says so much about who we are in that we aspire to be so much more.

Indeed, we will continue to see much change in the coming year. Between the work on the building, the work yet to be done to integrate our new ends into our day-to-day work, and the introduction of a new director of Lifespan Faith Development, we have a busy and exciting year ahead of us, and am I excited to be serving as your president.

Can we make more room to nourish more souls? In what ways will we transform and be transformed? Will we grow to 750, 800 members and do even more justice in this world? How will we fund our vision? How will we get to this Beloved Community?

But don't panic—this is all supposed to be happening! We will reach our destination safely, with resolve, and most importantly, together. ■

“Welcome, Jules!” continued

feels that critical thinking and objective truth is at risk of becoming obsolete. He is still discerning whether he will be joining us in Austin or staying close to his brother in Chicago. We have a 15-year-old beagle named Chloe and an adopted ferret named Silver, but I call her RatCat.

The Jaramillos are a warm, expressive, and loving Colombian-American family, and we embrace both identities. We were thrilled to discover there is a Colombian presence in Austin and three Colombian restaurants in our new neighborhood. We found an apartment in East Austin and feel it is the perfect urban environment we were looking for. I am learning bits and pieces about what it means to be an Austinite: how to pronounce Burnet, that Loop 1 is MoPac, and SoCo is the South Congress district. I know I will need your patience, forgiveness, and support as I learn the culture and all

things Austin. I am curious by nature and welcome your gentle guidance as I learn my way.

And being a religious educator, it seems apropos that I leave you with a “taking it home” exercise that will help me get to know you better. I am very interested in what you connect with when it comes to Lifespan Faith Development, no matter your age. I would appreciate it if between now and the time I arrive, you would write me a note with your full name and a few sentences about what you love or the most meaningful experience you have had in Lifespan Faith Development at First UU. Please leave them for me in the basket/box on the table in the foyer, and I will read all of them. It’ll take me some time, but it will be very helpful in creating connections between us.

Holding you in love.

Yours in faith,
Jules ■

Racism Unlearning Circle

Saturday, June 16

Rm. 15

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

This group is a place for white folks to discuss the creation and meaning of whiteness, white supremacy, racism, our role in perpetuating oppressive systems (intentionally or not), and how we can take accountable action to dismantle white supremacy and show up with minoritized peoples to demand an end to dehumanization. Meetings are third Saturday of every month. Check First UU Facebook events for more event info to prepare for meetings. Childcare RSVP: childcare@austinuu.org. Info: racismunlearning@austinuu.org.

“Getting to Know UU” class

Sunday, June 10

Rm. 15A

12:15–1:30 p.m.

This informal class is a good way to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and this church. Sign up for the class at the membership/visitor’s table in the foyer on any Sunday morning, or email membership@austinuu.org. Childcare is provided.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Lifespan FD highlights

**by Laine Young, Interim Director of
Lifespan Faith Development**



"I cannot say goodbye to those whom I have grown to love, for the memories we have made will last a lifetime, and will never know a goodbye."

My goodness, 2018 really is racing by isn't it? Actually, when I pause and think about it the past two years have flown by! My interim with First Austin will be ending at the end of June. We have accomplished so much together. We have literally grown the church programming (have you visited the playground vegetable garden this year?) with sing-alongs, pajama days, game nights, and glitter along the way.

My husband Andrew will be arriving in Austin on June 16. After spending time with our friends and family, helping pack up the house, and eating all the Tex-Mex we can, Andrew, Kaitlyn, and I will be Tokyo-bound! Even though we have been planning our move for a while, it all seems surreal to me at times. I am excited (and nervous!) for this new chapter in my life. I am looking forward to all of the things I am going to experience and learn (because I'll always be a DRE at heart), but leaving my hometown and this congregation is sad for me as well. I will miss First Austin and all of y'all!

It has truly been among the great honors of my life to serve this congregation as a Sunday School teacher, RE teacher coordinator, RE programs assistant, and the interim director of Lifespan Faith Development. Jules, the incoming director, will get to work with an amazing congregation!

I will definitely be stopping by First Austin to visit whenever we are in town and I cannot wait to see the amazing things y'all accomplish together!

In fellowship,
Laine Young

Summer Children & Youth Programming Starts June 10!

Pre-K – 5th Grade: The Awesome Stuff Summer Institute! (Rm 23 & 17)

Both Pre-K through 1st (Rm 23) as well as 2nd through 5th grade classes (Rm 17) will be doing "The Awesome Stuff Summer Institute!" This curriculum is based on the book, "The Kids Book of Awesome Stuff!" by Charlene Brotman. Lessons are all about evolution, ecology, and the earth sciences. The storybooks that go along with it are seriously stellar! This will be very friendly to the rough and tumble, hands-on kind of kid, as there are as many of those activities along with stories and crafts.

Junior High Youth Group: Middle School MythBusters! (Rm 13)

The junior high youth group will be engaging in various science experiments this summer. Experiments will include aerodynamics, creating slime, making soda geysers, and more! Second service only, 10:45 a.m.–noon.

continued on next page

High School Youth Group (Rm 11)

This summer, the high school youth group will have fellowship, small group worship, and field trips with the middle school youth group. The purpose of each is to build strong fellowship and spiritual deepening within the group and a bond between the two youth groups. Second service only, start time 10:45 a.m.

**Science and Religion Seminar
June 3, 1 p.m.**

A traditional role of religion has been taking a prominent role in ethics and values. However, because religion developed prior to the 20th century, it has not kept up with the immense growth in science-driven technology that is on the verge of yet again transforming human life during the 21st century. We will explore this topic, with a particular focus on artificial intelligence and virtual/augmented reality, that together could simulate much of what we think of as our core nature.

New class: Chair Yoga!

This new class will be taught by First UU Austin member and certified Hatha Yoga instructor Katherine Tanney. Moderately paced seated practice will combat stiffness and increase strength & energy. Discover muscles you haven't used in a long time and find out why "motion is lotion" for your joints. Questions: windsorparkyoga@gmail.com. ■

**Hogwarts Camp is coming!****Plastic Cap & Lid Recycling
needed for Camp UU Hogwarts!**

Camp UU Hogwarts will be collecting plastic bottle caps and lids in June and July for a camp project. Please help us out by collecting and bringing your donations to the basket at the Lifespan Faith Development table outside the sanctuary! For any questions about this project, contact campuu@austinuu.org.



Music Matters

by Katrina Saporsantos, Assistant Director of Music

Performance of Persichetti's "Flower Songs," Sun, June 3 (during services)

The First UU Adult Choir, led by Director of Music Brent Baldwin, will be joined by a string orchestra for Vincent Persichetti's

"Flower Songs (Cantata No. 6)." Persichetti was a prolific twentieth-century American composer known for his succinct polyphonic style, forceful rhythms, and generally diatonic melodies. For text, he usually turned to contemporary poetry; E. E. Cummings was a favorite.

Flower Songs reveals the depth of his commitment and reverence to this particular poet. Using seven of Cummings' poems, he came up with a loosely constructed cycle that speaks of innocence and experience, love and loss. ■

Vincent Persichetti

FLOWER SONGS

text by e.e. cummings



June 3, 2018
(both morning services)

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin
Adult Choir & Orchestra
Brent Baldwin, Director of Music

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

General Assembly Kansas City, June 20–24

General Assembly is the big annual event for our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect and make policy for our Association. This year General Assembly will take place in Kansas City, MO, and online.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At GA 2018 we will explore who and how are we called to be at this time, individually and collectively, and how we are called to act and to live in this unique and challenging time. More details: www.uua.org/ga.

So far at least 15 members of our church plan to attend, including at least four youth! If you have any questions about GA, or if you are planning to go, please contact David Overton at denom@austinuu.org. He is keeping a list of attendees so that we will be able to be in contact while we are there. Also contact David to find out about scholarship opportunities for General Assembly.

Take Action with UUSC for Human Rights

The UU Service Committee works to protect rights at risk in the US and around the world. Right now two critical issues involve Dreamers at risk of deportation in the US, and the Rohingya minority in Burma which have been forced to flee persecution.

UUSC has organized several actions, including an orchestrated plan to contact and inform members of Congress. Find out more and join UUSC in protecting human rights: www.uusc.org.

Upcoming UBarU events

UBarU is a UU camp and retreat center in the beautiful Hill Country, just 120 miles west of Austin. In 2015, UBarU was designated an International Dark Sky Park.

• **Summer Camp at UbarU.** Fun and faith for youth in the Texas Hill Country. Programs tailored to each age group. More info and registration at www.ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp.

- Grades 3–5: June 17–23
- Grades 6–7: June 24–30
- Grades 8–9: July 1–7
- Grades 10–HS grads as of 2018: July 8–14

(Grades are as of Sept 1, 2018)

Questions and Carpooling

Want to carpool to an event outside Austin? Email denom@austinuu.org and we'll try to put you together with someone to share the ride. ■

“Path to Membership” class

Saturday, July 21
9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Howson Hall

Breakfast and childcare are provided for this quarterly class designed for those interested in becoming members. Learn about the responsibilities of membership; learn about UU history and the history of this church; share faith stories with other prospective members (optional); hear about ways to connect in the church; and sign the membership book and fill out new member paperwork, if you feel ready!

Please RSVP to membership@austinuu.org as soon as possible or with Shannon at the visitor table, so we can get an accurate head count for food and childcare.

Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, June 13
Howson Hall
12 p.m.

“Charitable Giving with Retirement Benefits” will be the topic, presented by board-certified estate planning attorney Liz Nielsen. Soup, salad and dessert will be served for \$5. Please RSVP to Alice Cashman: (512) 217-2615.

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian human rights organization powered by grassroots collaboration. UUSC works anywhere rights are threatened—by natural disasters, armed conflicts, genocide, forced migration, and systematic injustice. UUSC began its work in 1939 when Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp took the extraordinary risk of traveling to Europe to help refugees escape Nazi persecution.

For over 75 years, UUSC's innovative approach and measurable contributions have been grounded in the moral belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights. UUSC principles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guide the work of UUSC.

From sending emergency medical equipment to Rwanda and partnering with local groups to bring peace to the region; launching Drumbeat for Darfur, creating an advocacy list of several thousand activists and collaborating with other groups to help end the genocide in Darfur; and helping to convict former Guatemalan dictator, General Efraín Ríos Montt, of genocide and crimes against humanity by funding forensic research on exhumed bodies that provided key evidence to help prove the military's culpability; UUSC has

been realizing its mission in promoting justice and human rights.

Today UUSC partners with groups worldwide. UUSC advances a full array of human rights—promoting economic justice, bolstering environmental justice, and protecting rights at risk. UUSC also works to deliver aid with dignity and advance the rights of people left behind during humanitarian crises, which include forgotten conflicts and natural disasters. UUSC has various projects and partners in each of these areas.

For example, UUSC is partnering with Texas-based organizations to serve those hardest hit by Hurricane Harvey still struggling to access mainstream relief and services. UUSC is supporting impacted individuals who were vulnerable before the storm—undocumented immigrants, the disabled, people of color—because natural disasters often exacerbate existing inequalities.

In Haiti where UUSC began the EcoVillage project in response to the devastating 2011 hurricane, UUSC is currently evaluating the continuing needs of the people anticipating the project becoming self sustaining. UUSC has promised, "UUSC is committed to grassroots initiatives and partnerships that lead to sustainable recovery. We exit projects

only after thoughtful consideration of partner needs and of the communities we serve."

UUSC is working with refugees and displaced persons in the United States and around the world. With projects in Burma involving the Rohingya minority; in Serbia where many refugees are stuck in their attempt to reach European countries to the west; in the South Pacific and Alaska, where indigenous populations are highly susceptible to losing their lifestyles and land due to rising sea levels and climate change; and on our own southern border, where the current administration's policies become more punitive weekly; UUSC is standing up for human rights and international law.

Currently you can take direct action on the UUSC website to protect over 440 thousand individuals who came here legally due to emergency conditions in their own countries and are now after many years being forced to return to countries continuing in crisis. The petition calls on our legislators to co-sponsor bills to protect these communities.

These are only a few of the many ways that UUSC reaches the most vulnerable in the world today. For more info: www.uusc.org, or come by the Social Action table on Sunday, June 10.

FIRST UU IN PICTURES

First UU youth dream on in Bridging Ceremony

photos by Victoria Valadez



Sunday, May 20, 2018



*Congratulations to our youth bridging
to high school and young adulthood!*



Eclectic Folk Jam**Friday, June 8****Rm. 17****7–10 p.m.**

An open jam session for singers and instrumentalists, held on the second Friday of every month. We have “Rise Up Singing” and “Rise Again” and music stands. Bring other songs if you like, as well as drinks and snacks to share.

Contact Pete and Kim Akenhead at (512) 834-0188, or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or singalong@austinuu.org.

UU/Quaker Singalong**Saturday, June 23****Friends Meeting House
(3701 E. MLK Blvd.)****7:30–10:30 p.m.**

Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing. Copies of “Rise Up Singing” and “Rise Again” are provided, but you may bring other songs. This is an alcohol-free event, round-robin format, held on the fourth Saturday of every month.

Contact Larry Vaughn at (512) 469-0029 or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or singalong@austinuu.org.

SUNDAY SERVICES**SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM****JUNE 3****Does it Hurt to Bloom?****WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE**

As we celebrate the traditional Unitarian ceremony of flower communion, we remember its origins as a vivid resistance to Nazi oppression. Color and diversity are a strength and a delight. The First UU Adult Choir, led by Director of Music Brent Baldwin, will be joined by a string orchestra for Vincent Persichetti’s “Flower Songs (Cantata No. 6)” with text by E.E. Cummings. (*See pg. 6.*)

JUNE 10**Question Box Sermon****WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE**

People in the congregation will write their questions down and they will be passed to the front of the room. Meg will read the questions and answer as many of them as she can during the sermon time. These can be deep questions about theology and life, or questions that have been on your mind. Music provided by First UU’s group of professional singers, together with pianist Benjamin Dia.

JUNE 17**Unitarians and Abolition****WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE**

Some were heroes, others not very heroic at all. It seems that we have always been, and still are, a mixture of passion and fear, militant and hesitant, part of the solution and part of the problem. The First UU Adult Choir and band will provide the music for the services.

JUNE 24**On Everyday Ministry and Finding Your Signature Move****WITH REV. ERIN WALTER**

How do we nourish ourselves, as caregivers, activists, workers, or simply human beings living in troubled times? How can we put our spiritual values to deep use in our daily lives? Rev. Erin Walter will share lessons from her new ministry with the YMCA and reflect on what we can learn from unconventionally sacred spaces like the gym, the dance floor, or the childcare center. UU composer and guitarist Jim Scott comes to First UU to share his music with us.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

JUNE 3

Creating our UU Legacy

WITH LIZ NIELSEN

In 1953, Caroline Veatch passed away and left a legacy to her UU congregation that has not only sustained Unitarian Universalism, but has funded organizations and causes that promote UU principles throughout the world. While most of us do not have the good fortune to have inherited millions of dollars in mineral interests like Ms. Veatch, we can all pass on a legacy that promotes our values.

Liz Nielsen, a board-certified estate planning attorney, will talk about how estate planning can ensure our values are passed to future generations and explain how recent tax reform may impact charitable giving. She will also share information about the Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge, funded by Ms. Veatch's legacy gift that aims to strengthen the future of Unitarian Universalism. Liz is a longtime UU and the founder of Nielsen Law PLLC (www.estateplanatx.com), where she helps Austin families with estate planning, special needs planning, charitable planning, and estate administration.

JUNE 10

Healthful Eating: Ethical Choices

WITH CAROL WHITAKER

The Ethical Choices program seeks to inform individuals, especially students, of the importance of being informed and understanding the power and influence they have to make the world a better place through food choices. The program helps individuals make thoughtful and responsible plant-based food choices that benefit their health, the planet, and other living creatures.

Obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and other diseases are lifestyle related. She will discuss the connection between diet and health and discuss ways that informed dietary choices can help prevent or relieve diseases.

Carol Whitaker is the Ethical Choices Program's field educator for the Austin area. She has an MBA from the University of Dallas and an MS in management information systems from Nova Southeastern University. Her love of the natural world, years of community service to help environmental causes, and her personal health struggles led her to uncover the connections between human health, the environment, and animal ethics.

JUNE 17

None – Father's Day

JUNE 24

Criminal Justice Reform

WITH LEWIS CONWAY JR.

Texas Advocates for Justice (TAJ) is on a mission to end the criminalization of our communities, break down barriers to reentry from prison and jail in Texas, and demolish the legacy of racism in the justice system. TAJ unites formerly incarcerated individuals, their families, people of faith, and allies to build safe and resilient communities through organizing, leadership training, and linkages to community resources.

Lewis Conway Jr. spent 2,095 days in Texas prisons and 4,012 days on parole. Today he is criminal justice organizer with Grassroots Leadership and TAJ. As an organizer, activist, and advocate, Lewis led the legislative lobbying effort to protect the Austin Fair Chance Hiring ordinance. He was also one of the leaders in the original campaign to pass the only Fair Chance Hiring ordinance in the South.

Lewis has served on many successful campaigns, such as repealing the Austin juvenile curfew ordinance and delaying the new \$97 million jail expansion. He also led a prison closure campaign, which contributed to the closing of three private correctional facilities and one public prison in 2017. ■

**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Austin**
(512) 452-6168
www.austinuu.org

First UU Ministers
Rev. Meg Barnhouse
Rev. Chris Jimmerson

Director of Music
Brent Baldwin

Interim Director of Lifespan
Faith Development
Laine Young

Congregational Administrator
Shannon Posern

Communications Coordinator
Victoria M. Valadez

Financial Administrator
Katherine Patton

Board President
Jairy Grisaffe

WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY

Next meeting: supporting other community groups

Sunday, June 10
Rm 13
12:30–2 p.m.

As part of our June meeting, Scott Butki will explain how to attend and participate in the meetings of groups White Allies partners with: Austin Justice Coalition, Undoing White Supremacy Austin, and Black Lives Matter Austin. He'll explain what those groups do at their meetings, give advice on how best to take part as a new member, and answer any questions.

The UU White Allies for Racial Equity is a group of self-identified white Austin area UUs and friends. Through training and self-examination, we educate ourselves about racism and whiteness in order to be good allies as we go out and do anti-racism work in our church and our communities.

For more info or to be added to our email list, contact: sbutki@gmail.com.



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Austin**

4700 Grover Ave.
Austin, TX 78756